

*Rivers*  
*in the*  
*Desert*

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B I B L E C O U R S E I

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A NEW  
CREATION

## In the Beginning

The Bible, which is the Word of God, opens with the words:

**In the beginning God  
created the heaven and the earth.**

Genesis 1:1

The deepest need of your heart is to know the One who created the heaven and the earth. The Book of Revelation, which is the last book in the Holy Bible, tells us of Jesus Christ and who He is. Jesus said, “**I am Alpha** [first letter in the Greek alphabet] **and Omega** [the last letter in the Greek alphabet], **the first and the last.**” (*Revelation 1:11*). We may say He is the ‘**A**’ and the ‘**Z**’, the first and the last. He is the beginning and the end of everything. That is, Jesus Christ is the source of all life, and it is to Him that we have to give account in the last day. It was God who gave us our breath. It was He who formed us in the womb and brought us to the birth. We are to live unto Him and give glory to Him in all that we do.

**“By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother’s bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee. I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.”** (*Psalms 71:6-8*).

In Revelation chapter 3 we see the Lord Jesus Christ as “**the beginning of the creation of God.**” (*Revelation 3:14*). That is, He is the Creator of all things. The prophets of the Old Testament speak much of God as the Creator.

**“Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein.”** (*Isaiah 42:5*).

“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.” (*Isaiah 44:24*).

“I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.” (*Isaiah 45:12*).

“Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.” (*Isaiah 48:13*).

“But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation ... He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.” (*Jeremiah 10:10,12*).

Again the psalmist David, king of Israel, spoke of the handiwork of God in creation:

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.” (*Psalms 8:3*).

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.” (*Psalms 19:1*).

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” (*Psalms 33:6*).

God is the Creator of the universe. He is the everlasting God who had no beginning and who has no ending. “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (*Psalms 90:2*). Before there was anything, there was God who is eternal, almighty and infinitely wise.

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (*1 Timothy 1:17*).

## The Only True God

The Holy Scriptures are God's revelation of His mind to the world. We cannot know God except through the Word of God. All the philosophies of men are vain. God has spoken to mankind:

**“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”** (*Hebrews 1:1-2*).

There is only one God and no other. All the gods of wood and stone are dumb idols. “Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.” (*Deuteronomy 4:39*). “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.” (*Deuteronomy 6:4*).

**“The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.”** (*Psalms 135:15-18*).

**“Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any. They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable [desirable] things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.”** (*Isaiah 44:7-8*).

**“There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”** (*Isaiah 45:21-22*).

## Three Persons in One God

Though there is one God and no other, there are three distinct persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are one and yet three. “In the beginning was the Word [God the Son who became man and dwelt on this earth], and the Word was with God [the Father], and the Word [God the Son] was God.” (*John 1:1*). “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word [the Son], and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (*1 John 5:7*).

In the Godhead we see the three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These three persons are not three gods but one God. The three persons are so united that they cannot be divided. Jesus of Nazareth was called Emmanuel, meaning ‘God with us’. (*Matthew 1:23*). He said to His disciples,

**“If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?”** (*John 14:7-9*).

The three persons are co-equal. There are no degrees of greatness. They are co-eternal. This is a great mystery which the human mind by philosophy could never search out. But God reveals this mystery by His Word.

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”** (*1 Timothy 3:16*).

If God did not reveal Himself to mankind, the inhabitants of this earth, we would have been left in darkness and blindness. God showed His power and authority through His creation.

**“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20).**

By His handiwork we can know the power of the Creator, but how many of us worship Him as the great Creator? How many are grateful for the manifold blessings of God who makes “his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”? (*Matthew 5:45*).

Though every man has the evidence before him day and night of the power of God in creation, we could never know God personally and have communion with Him. We could not have known God but for His great love and mercy whereby He has been pleased to reveal Himself to His offspring whom He has created in His own image. “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (*John 3:17*). May your eyes be turned to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

## Jesus Christ is the Son of God

**“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son ... by whom also he made the worlds.” (Hebrews 1:1-2).**

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the fulness of the revelation of God to mankind. Though God dwelt in the world in a body of flesh and blood, the world remained in blindness and crucified Him.

**“The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made ... And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (John 1:2-3,5).**

**“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”** (*John 1:10-12*).

In divine love the Son of God gave His life for sinners that He might redeem a company from among them, who have repented of their unbelief and turned with love and gratitude to put their whole confidence in Jesus Christ, their Lord and Saviour. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly ... But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (*Romans 5:6,8*).

**“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”** (*Hebrews 2:10*).

Having fulfilled the will of His Father here on earth, Jesus Christ returned to His Father in heaven. He said, “O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” (*John 17:5*). The Lord Jesus Christ, who created all things, is the Son of God, and He was with the Father from the beginning.

## Jesus Christ is the Creator

In the Epistle to the Colossians we read of Jesus Christ,  
**who is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of every creature:  
For by him were all things created,**  
that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible,  
whether they be thrones,  
or dominions, or principalities, or powers:

**all things were created by him, and for him:  
And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

Colossians 1:15-17

So far we have read that:

- ◆ Jesus Christ made the worlds
- ◆ The whole of creation was made by Him
- ◆ The whole of creation was made for Him

## Jesus Christ is the Word

**In the beginning was the Word, and  
the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

John 1:1

Then in the same chapter, we read that **“all things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”** (*John 1:3*).

Let us go on a step further to verse 14: **“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,** (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (*John 1:14*). Jesus Christ is the Word, the One who came to this earth in a body of flesh and blood.

Thus we see the Lord Jesus Christ as:

- ◆ The beginning of the creation of God
- ◆ And the Creator of all things,
- ◆ Who created all things by His Word.



## Jesus Christ is the Everlasting God

The Lord Jesus Christ had no beginning. He is from everlasting, and He is the eternal Word of God.

**“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”** (*Micah 5:2*).

This is a prophecy written centuries before the Lord Jesus Christ was born. It foretold the birthplace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It tells us also that this One to be born in Bethlehem is from everlasting. That means He had no beginning.

In the Epistle to Hebrews we read that the Lord Jesus Christ shall be King for ever.

**“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”** (*Hebrews 1:8*).

Then in the Book of Revelation He says,

**“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”** (*Revelation 1:8*).

The Lord Jesus had no beginning and He has no ending. He is eternal! Jesus Christ is the One spoken of by the prophet Isaiah:

**“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”** (*Isaiah 9:6*).

The apostle John wrote,

**We know that the Son of God is come,**  
and hath given us an understanding,

that we may know him that is true ...

**This is the true God, and eternal life.**

1 John 5:20

**This is life eternal,**

**that they might know thee the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

John 17:3

You are invited to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the beginning and the ending, for He is eternal life. You cannot have eternal life without receiving Jesus Christ into you to be your life.

**He that hath the Son hath life;  
and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

1 John 5:12

By depending on human wisdom, we cannot understand that God is the Creator of all things. Jesus said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." (*Matthew 11:25*). If you come to the Lord Jesus Christ like a little child, and believe His Word, He will make it plain.

**"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (*Hebrews 11:3*).**

**"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (*Hebrews 11:6*).**

**"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth ... For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." (*Psalms 33:6,9*).**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of all creation. He is “**upholding all things by the word of his power.**” (*Hebrews 1:3*). We read of His power in the first part of the Holy Bible (Genesis to Malachi), which is called the Old Testament, and also in the New Testament (Matthew to Revelation).

## Old Testament

 He is the One who divided the Red Sea

“The LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and **made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.** And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and **the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.**” (*Exodus 14:21-22*).

 He is the One who shook Mount Sinai

“And **mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke,** because the LORD descended upon it in **fire:** and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount **quaked greatly.**” (*Exodus 19:18*).

 He is the One who commanded the ravens

“Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and **I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.** So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And **the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening;** and he drank of the brook.” (*1 Kings 17:3-6*).

 He is the One who shut the lions' mouths

“My God hath sent his angel, and hath **shut the lions' mouths**, that they have not hurt me.” (*Daniel 6:22*).

## New Testament

 He is the One who shook the earth

“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and **the earth did quake, and the rocks rent**.” (*Matthew 27:51*).

“And, behold, **there was a great earthquake**: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.” (*Matthew 28:2*).

 He is the One who rebuked the winds

“He arose, and **rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm**. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that **even the winds and the sea obey him!**” (*Matthew 8:26-27*).

 He is the One who walked on the sea

“In the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, **walking on the sea**. And when **the disciples saw him walking on the sea**, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.” (*Matthew 14:25-26*).

 He is the One who rode a colt

“And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought **the ass, and the colt**, and put on them their clothes, and **they set him thereon**. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed [spread] them in the way.” (*Matthew 21:6-8*).

 He is the one who opened prison doors

“But the angel of the Lord by night **opened the prison doors**, and brought them forth.” (*Acts 5:19*).

“And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands ... When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto **the iron gate** that leadeth unto the city; which **opened to them of his own accord**: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.” (*Acts 12:6-7,10*).

## Lord of All Creation

Is He not the Lord of all creation? The prophet Isaiah said, “**God the LORD ... created the heavens, and stretched them out; he ... spread forth the earth**, and that which cometh out of it; **he ... giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein.**” (*Isaiah 42:5*).

Another prophet wrote,

“For, lo, **he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought**, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, **The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.**” (*Amos 4:13*).

Thus our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ from the very first verse in the Bible. The psalmist wrote, “Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.” (*Psalms 33:8*).

## Eternal Life

The Holy Scriptures, which we call the Bible, speak of the Lord Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me**. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (*John 5:39-40*).

Bible knowledge alone will not give us eternal life. The Word of God is a "**lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path**", to lead us to the Lord Jesus Christ who is eternal life. (*Psalms 119:105*). By repenting of all your sins and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you will receive the gift of eternal life. "For the wages of sin is death; but **the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**." (*Romans 6:23*).

Will you receive Him today as your own personal Saviour? "And this is the record, that **God hath given to us eternal life**, and this life is in his Son. **He that hath the Son hath life**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (*1 John 5:11-12*).

If today you are convinced that you are a sinner, and need to be forgiven of all your past sins, so that Jesus Christ may come to live His life in you, then kneel down and confess your sins to God. Ask Him to forgive you and blot out all your sins according to His promise:

**I have blotted out, as a thick cloud,  
thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins:  
return unto me;  
for I have redeemed thee.**

Isaiah 44:22



If you would like further help to have the peace of sins forgiven, write to or call at the address on the back cover, phone (02) 9585 9101 or fax (02) 9585 9808.

## Questions

**Instructions:** Before you start to answer these questions, please remember to read your lesson carefully, praying that God will speak to you. The answer to each question will be found in the lesson. Check your answers with those printed in the back of this Bible Course.

- 1 Write down the first verse of Genesis chapter one.

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- 2 In Revelation 1 verse 11, the Lord Jesus Christ says He is the Alpha and Omega.

This means He is the B\_\_\_\_\_ and the E\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Complete this verse which shows that the Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, had no beginning.

“Out of thee [Bethlehem] shall he come forth unto me that is to be r\_\_\_\_\_ in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of o\_\_\_\_, from e\_\_\_\_\_.” (*Micah 5:2*).

- 4 Copy out a verse from the Epistle of Hebrews chapter 1 to show that the Lord Jesus Christ has no ending.

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Hebrews 1: \_\_\_\_ (Write in the number of the verse)

- 5 Complete this verse from the Epistle to the Colossians to show that the Lord Jesus Christ created all things.

“For by him were all things c\_\_\_\_\_, that are in h\_\_\_\_\_, and that are in e\_\_\_\_\_.” Colossians \_\_\_:\_\_\_\_. (Write in the chapter and verse).

- 6 Write out a verse from Psalm 33 to show by what power the heavens were made.

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Psalm 33:\_\_\_\_. (Write in the number of the verse).

- 7 The Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of all creation; that is, all things are obedient to Him. Copy out one Old Testament portion of Scripture and one portion from the New Testament to show this. Refer to your Lesson Booklet for your answer.

Old Testament: \_\_\_\_\_

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New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_

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- 8 Isaiah 9 verse 6 is a prophecy of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this same verse we read that His name is called:

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- 9 In the **First Epistle** of John 5 verse 20 (1 John 5:20, not the Gospel of John) we read of Jesus Christ as the true G\_\_\_\_ and e\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_.

- 10 The Gospel of John 17 verse 3 tells us what it is to have eternal life. Will you complete the verse. "This is life eternal \_\_\_\_\_

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- 11 John's Gospel chapter 5 verses 39 to 40 teaches us that to receive eternal life, we must come to the L\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ of whom the Scriptures testify.

- 12 The **First Epistle** of John chapter 5 verse 12 (1 John 5:12, not the Gospel) tells us who are those who have eternal life. Copy out this verse.

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- 13 Is eternal life a reward for our own good works, or is it a gift from God? \_\_\_\_\_

Copy a verse of Scripture to show why you have given this answer.

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14 When do you receive eternal life?

- When you are born
- When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to live in you
- When you die

Tick the correct answer. Only one is correct. Before answering read again 1 John 5:11-12 and look up John 5:24.



When you have completed your Question Sheet you can go on to the next lesson. If you do not understand any question, then please write to Rivers in the Desert Bible Course or phone **(02) 9585 9101** and we will be glad to help you with further explanation from the Word of God.

# *A New Creation*

A N S W E R S

## Lesson 1 God Our Creator

- 1 **In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**
- 2 “He is the **Beginning** and the **Ending**.” (Revelation 1:11).
- 3 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be **ruler** in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of **old**, from **everlasting**.” (Micah 5:2).
- 4 “**But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.**” Verse 8.

OR

- “**And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.**” Verse 12.
- 5 “For by him were all things **created**, that are in **heaven**, and that are in **earth**.” (Colossians 1:16)

6 **“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”** (Verse 6)

7 Old Testament

Exodus 14:21-22 or Exodus 20:18 or 1 Kings 17:3-6 or Daniel 6:22.

New Testament

Matthew 27:51 or Matthew 28:2 or Matthew 8:26-27 or Matthew 14:25-26 or Matthew 21:6-8 or Acts 5:19 or Acts 12:6-7,10.

8 **“His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”** (Isaiah 9:6)

9 Jesus Christ is the true **God** and **eternal life**. (1 John 5:20).

10 **“This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”** (John 17:3).

11 **Lord Jesus Christ** of whom the Scriptures testify. (John 5:40).

12 **“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”** (1 John 5:12).

13 **A gift of God.**

**“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** (Romans 6:23)

14 **✗** When you are born

**✓** When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to live in you

**✗** When you die